

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 36-39, 56-58 and 61-73 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-35, 40-55 and 59-60 will be pending in the present application with claims 1, 2, 40, 47 and 59 being independent.

I. Allowance of Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-35, 40-55 and 59-60 are allowed.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 36-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Unnold (2004/0196182) in view of Bouliane (CA 2,133,673). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Although applicants disagree with the arguments presented in rejecting claims 36-39, for purposes of economy of prosecution claims 36-39 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 36-39 is rendered moot.

For at least the reasons above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 36-39 are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner believe that this application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to address the Examiner's concerns.

Please apply any necessary additional charges or credits to Deposit Account 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

16 June 06

Stephen C. Glazier
Reg. No. 31,361
(202) 778-9045

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP
1601 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 778-9000
Fax: (202) 778-9100